

Appl. No. 10/693,360
Response dated October 10, 2007
Reply to Final Action of May 11, 2007

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REMARKS

Applicant's representative gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's thoughtful insights relayed in a telephone interview on October 9, 2007.

As a result of that interview, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2, 8, 9 and 17 remain as originally or previously presented. Claims 3, 13, 14 have previously been cancelled. Claims 4 – 7, 10 – 12, 15 – 20 remain withdrawn as they are directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 21 – 24, which were newly added in the last response, have been cancelled.

Claim 1 as presently amended is now directed to the preferred embodiments of the present invention which are set forth in Examples 1 and 2 of the present specification.

In the Final Action claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Tian et al. and over the Bennett, et al. article. Also, claims 1 – 3 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,097,907 to Bennett, et al. It is submitted that the present amendment to independent claim 1 overcomes these rejections.


Also in the Final Action claims 8, 9, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tian in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,309,669 to Setterstrom, et al. and as being unpatentable over the '907 reference in view of Setterstrom, et al. However, as the present amendment to independent claim 1 clearly distinguishes over the primary references, it is submitted that the combination of the primary references with Setterstrom, et al. is of little relevance to the present dependent claims.

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Accordingly, it is submitted that the present case is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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